

antiviolence mural. He was one of 60 artists working on Oakland's superhero mural project. He was shot by someone trying to steal his camera.

Chyemil Pierce. Chyemil was 30 years old. She was shot on March 13, 2015. She was a mother of three that was shot by a stray bullet while shielding her children. She had walked her 7- and 9-year-old children home from school at about 4:45 p.m., in broad daylight. Two others were injured in this shooting.

Torian Hughes. Torian was the grandson of my friend, Oakland Council president Lynette Gibson McElhaney. He died by a gunshot just a few days before Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, how many more Torians? How many more Antonios? How many more Chyemils will die protecting their children?

Enough is enough. It is past time to do something. It starts with enacting background checks on all gun sales and making sure that guns stay out of the hands of those who cannot fly on airplanes. That is just common sense. The American people know it. It is about time the Republicans listen.

I am so proud that my community, California's East Bay, has rallied to support our efforts. Some family members attended our National Day of Action last week and pleaded with us to do something.

I want to share what one of my constituents said during our sit-in 2 weeks ago on the House floor. She called my office, in tears, with a powerful message for all of us, especially Speaker RYAN.

She said: "I am a victim of gun violence, and I really appreciate what you are doing."

She made one simple request—a request that the entire House Democratic Caucus has been making: "I hope you can settle down and get a vote."

I dare the Speaker to call her back and tell her: Sorry, we are trying to gain consensus. Some Members still have reservations. Sorry, reelection support from the NRA is more important than addressing the epidemic of gun violence.

Call her, Mr. Speaker, and tell her that the NRA and its millions matter more than her.

We need to keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. Vote on our bills for background checks for all. Enough is enough.

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I found in my public service that one of the great privileges of serving are the opportunities it has afforded to me to meet with so many amazing Americans and Virginians from all walks of life. Many of these occasions have been moments of great joy: greeting servicemembers when they have returned home from serving abroad, graduation ceremonies.

There have also been moments of profound sadness and serious moments where not only me, but I am sure my colleagues here, have had the opportunity—and the difficult one—to actually meet with those who have lost a servicemember in service to our country or those whose families have really been hit so hard with a debilitating, indeed, fatal disease.

One of those fatal diseases that I come to the floor this morning to speak about is Alzheimer's. I believe probably every Member of this House has been affected by it in some way; both sides. It certainly affected my own family.

Alzheimer's damages and eventually destroys brain cells. It leads to memory loss and other challenges in brain function. It usually develops slowly and gradually gets worse. Ultimately, Alzheimer's is fatal.

Every 66 seconds, Mr. Speaker, a fellow American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But let's be clear: we are not talking about statistics here. We are talking about people.

To my left is the Garner family. I have learned so much from the Garner family about Alzheimer's. If you ever wonder if engaging your local Representative makes a difference; indeed, it does. This family is an example of that.

This is Jim; his wife, Karen; and their two beautiful children. I got to know Jim when he was diagnosed in the early stages of Alzheimer's. He was an officer in the United States Air Force at Langley. He served with distinction. Alzheimer's cut that short.

This is Frankie. Their daughter, Frankie, is amazing. She is one of the strongest advocates I know for a cause that she believes in. I have learned a lot from her and her entire family.

Jim passed away this past April, just days before his 54th birthday. Karen kept a blog about her experiences, and with her permission, I want to read from that blog. This is Karen speaking:

I want people to see what Alzheimer's disease does to a wonderful human being. I want to break the misconception that Alzheimer's disease is just old people forgetting someone's name or getting lost. I want to erase the stereotypical patient idea. I want the stigma that follows a diagnosis to be a thing of the past.

Well, we have got a long way to go before that is a complete reality across our Nation, but she and the family have helped me understand this. I am grateful to them and to the Alzheimer's Association for helping me further grasp at a deeper level just how this disease is harming our country.

Now, if we look at it, here are some of the statistics that we have got to keep in mind. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Of the 10 top killers of Americans, Alzheimer's is the only disease that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.

The rate of diagnosis is increasing. Right now, we have about 5 million

Americans that are suffering from this disease, including 135,000 Virginians. If we fail to act, Mr. Speaker, the number of Americans living with Alzheimer's could soar to as many as 16 million by 2020.

I am a fiscal conservative. I am acutely aware of our fiscal trajectory. Yet, as I look at the cost of Alzheimer's—and it is far more than a cost—if we look at what is happening here statistically, here is where our expenses are going, Mr. Speaker. I, as a fiscal conservative, come to the House floor today to say that we need to be investing more in Alzheimer's research.

We worked in, I think, an admirable and bipartisan way to increase funding to over \$660 million a year. Mr. Speaker, I call for \$2 billion. It is money well invested. Some things that we invest in are true expenses. Other things are true investments. This is one of them.

We should fund every program and medical research opportunity that shows promise. And, indeed, there are great opportunities for promise here. We can investigate brain imaging, biomarkers, and clinical tools that may result in earlier and more accurate diagnoses, timely interventions, and effective disease monitoring.

If we had advanced this, we could have done a better job for Jim and his family's lives. We ought to really set for our country something like the great moon shot that my father was so an integral part of.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that we can do this. We can find a cure. We can do right by the next generation. Keep in mind that it is not about statistics, but it is about people.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, our country has witnessed over 130 mass shootings since the beginning of this year. There are 270 million guns in the United States. That amounts to 89 per 100 Americans.

On average, 31 Americans are murdered with guns every day in this country, and 151 are treated in America's emergency rooms. Gun violence costs this country \$230 billion every year, which amounts to \$200 per person.

Gun death rates fell 56 percent in my State of California, from 1993 to 2010, because the legislature engaged in evidence-based research policy initiatives that have dropped that rate.

Between 2004 and 2013, 316,000 Americans were killed by firearms. During that same timeframe, 313 Americans died from terrorist attacks, both internationally and domestically.

Approximately 40 percent of all gun sales are private and are, therefore, exempted from the current background checks. Studies show that every day that background checks are used, the